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Chief, Requirements Branch, ORR
THRU : Acting Chief, Industrial Division, ORR

Chief, Producers Equipment Branch, ORR

5 November 1959

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[redacted] 20 October 1959, Czech Negotiations for Purchase of Chemical Equipment From Italy

BACKGROUND

Under current US policy, the transfer of US petrochemical technology to Bloc countries must be approved by the Commerce Department. According to the subject report, Czechoslovakia is interested in obtaining the chemical know-how for the production of maleic anhydride from an Italian firm which is to begin production under American license. The licensor, apparently, is Scientific Design, Inc., whose process produces maleic anhydride by air oxidation of benzene.

REQUIREMENTS

1. Information is desired as to the actual licensor of the process.

2. Italian source of the benzene -- i.e., petroleum or coal.

3. Status of the agreement on the maleic anhydride know-how.

4. Planned annual capacity of the Czech plant for the production of maleic anhydride.

5. Contemplated Czechoslovak source of benzene -- i.e., coal or petroleum.

This memorandum has been coordinated with M/Ch.

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